

## PERFINS FROM COILS NEED CATALOGUE RECOGNITION by Dr. Reg Powell

The Perfins Bulletin for June-August 1985 had an article by Donald Whitehead entitled "Perfins on British Coils" that should be brought to the notice of our members. After naming the issues from coils that had sideways watermarks he listed about thirty patterns of perfins he had found on these stamps. In the issue of January 1986, I agreed, and added that upright watermarks occasionally came with coils, as could be recognised from their overlapped joins. Two examples were shown, V/B (Tilles V 17) on the ½d K.G.V with Royal cypher watermark upright with the coil join of a vertical coil, and S/&S (Tilles S 646.1) on the 1½d 1934 photogravure with the coil join of a privately made horizontal delivery coil. Regarding the Q.E.II stamps without watermark a watch must be made for signs of coil use. I have the perfin NG/B (N156A in Tilles) on a 2d Machin with the leader marked T480 of a coil for sideways delivery.

Mention should have been made of another feature that serves to indicate that a stamp has come from a coil. A stamp having clipped perforations is likely to have been fed from a machine taking coils. Figure 1 shows the front and back of a most unusual perfinned stamp that has clipped perforations. Indeed it is one of the dummy stamps prepared by the stamp printers Harrison and Sons for their original trials on coil stamps. I wonder, did those trials include tests with perfins? Or, in the early days, before August 1912, was one of their dummy coils supplied to another early worker on a machine that would deliver and affix stamps with his 'AN' perforation ?

The perfin 'AN' was not in Tilles, but is number A 0560.02 in the most recent Society catalogue. Mr. Harry Skinner, who provided this data, says he has just one stamp with this perfin, which is an undated K.G.V 1d, watermarked Royal cypher, the issue of 1912. Furthermore, the stamp's perforations show evidence of having been fed from a machine, so, the user of AN's trials with the dummy stamp would seem to have been successful. The 'A' with its high centre hole is most unusual, and certainly differs from that of the Poko affixing machine, as does the 'N', see The GB Journal 16 17 1978. Messrs. Harrison and Sons were unable to help, but I wonder if any reader knows the identity of the perfin 'AN', or of the machine that was used?

Finally, are other perfins known on similar stamps that were produced for neither postal nor revenue use ?

